8: Waddell & Krinks E-4,5 (1964-1965) 1968 QJ23 Orokaiva QJ23

245 [442] Coffee must be carried to Awala for sale, about one hour's walk away. Since assistance is often required, marketing becomes a significant component of the total time devoted to coffee production. It is complicated by delays over the arrival of the buying vehicle at Awala, shortage of cash to make immediate payments, and inadequate transport capacity; growers are periodically involved in two or three journeys for the sale of a single load of coffee. Outside the buying season no attention is given to the gardens nor are any ripe berries harvested.

[484]

249 While in theory rubber trees undergo a 'wintering' period of about three months (August to October), the communal planting is tapped on a rotational basis throughout the year by seven villagers, including three members of the sample. Table 6:4 shows a peak in activity during period III but this probably reflects the tapping order rather than other considerations and in fact two of the sample households tapped during this period. It cannot be considered as a diversion of activity from coffee to rubber since the two households in question did not exploit any coffee during the year. Marketing of rubber is less time-consuming than coffee as the factory at Awala accepts coagulum at all times.

461 During period I an additional 1.0 hour per man-week was devoted to the communal cash crop garden venture, of which 0.8 hours involved removing regrowth which had occupied the area following initial clearance in 1963.[1] In the balance of the time a few cocoa and rubber seedlings were planted and weeded.

Twenty-four of a possible 32 adults participated in the communal garden, although 68 per cent of the total time expended was provided by 11 individuals from four households. The scheme was characterised by intensive activity during week 1, when 7.3 hours per man-week were expended, falling off rapidly to complete cessation within eight weeks.[2]

464 (ii) Paid work. If the abortive communal venture is disregarded, the village residents devote as much time to paid work as to cash cropping. However, only five individuals were involved in such work, three men erecting buildings under contract to the hospital at Saiho and two young people doing medical work at Sasembata mission clinic.

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[1] This venture thus largely accounts for the increased time spent in clearing during period I. See p.81.

[2] The initial display of enthusiasm may have been influenced by the recency of the researcher's arrival in the village, when the exact nature of his relationship with the other external agencies had not yet been determined.